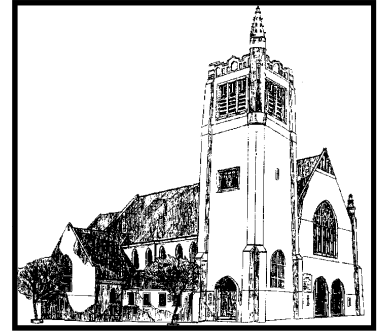




# Newsletter of St. George's URC Hartlepool

Dec 2018-Jan 2019



Dear Friends,

Firstly, many thanks to you all for the cards, flowers and good wishes I have received during my time off. It has been a difficult time for me and I have missed you all very much. I hope to be back at work at least part time very soon. Thank you to those of you who have taken services or had to make new arrangements during my absence. I am very grateful, and it has given me the opportunity to recover well.

Even having had so much time off I find that Advent and Christmas seem to creep us on us every year. We know when it is but the months fly by and suddenly we are thrust into the season in the blink of an eye!

Of course we all know people who claim to have all the cards bought and written by the end of September, Christmas Cakes made by October, presents bought and wrapped by November and are able to relax and enjoy all that December brings. Perhaps some of you reading this are as organised, but listening to what many of you say, I doubt there are many!

Advent is a time for waiting and preparing. It is a time for us to reflect on what is about to happen, a time to wait on the Lord's coming and to be prepared to welcome a new born baby into our lives. It is a time of excitement but also of challenge as any new parents know. The anticipation of the birth of a child is a time of preparation and worry so I suppose we shouldn't expect anything less in our homes and in our spiritual lives.

As we prepare for the coming of our Lord, it is right we take time to wonder at the miracle that lies ahead, to gaze on the majesty of God and to welcome His son into our homes and hearts. AS we approach to the end of a year and the beginning of a new one these words from Isaiah might resonate with us.

***DO NOT REMEMBER THE FORMER THINGS OR CONSIDER THE THINGS OF OLD.  
I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING; NOW IT SPRINGS FORTH, DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE IT.***

***(ISAIAH 43; 18-19)***

As we move forward together, surrounded by God's love and presence, let us take time this Advent and Christmas to remember all that God has done for us and all that we are able to accomplish in his name. Please pray that the New Year will bring us all good health and renewed vigour to work closer together to take the Good News of the Christ Child into the lives of those who are yet to know Him. God invites us to live by this Good News and challenges us to pass it on!

Alex joins me in wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for the New Year.

God Bless you all, Sue

## Dates for your Diaries

### December

Sat 1	CWM Coffee Morning 10-12noon <sup>st</sup> Thornaby Mission Christmas Fayre
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	Advent Bible Study 7pm at Billingham
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	Film Night with Pie and Peas 4.30pm
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Concert with FMHYC 4.30pm

### January 2019

Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am – Elders Meeting
Sunday 27	United Service at 4.00pm at St George's

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

8am Prayer Meetings:	12 December	College of Further Education
	9 January	College of Further Education
	23 January	St Columba's Church

Wednesday 12 December – Mayor's Civic Carol Service at Stranton Parish Church at 5.50pm for 6pm. All are welcome.

Thursday 13 December – Dementia Friendly Carol Service at the Headland Baptist Church from 2-2.30pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

### Coffee Rota

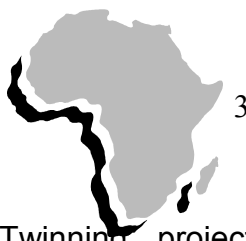
<b>DECEMBER</b>	-	2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	-	Sandra Hindmarch, Kevin Hoad  Robert and Sheila Harrison Margaret Welford, Rose Hastings Gail and Ashley Hoad
<b>JANUARY</b>	-	6th 13th 20th 27th	-	Val Rigg, Gillian Cartman Margaret Fraser, Elma Welsh Gillian and Paul Rodgers Enid and Al Bushnell
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	-	3rd		Sandra Hindmarch, Rose Hastings



.Please make sure you are in Church early enough to set out the tea and coffee things and get everything ready before service starts. Please use Fair Trade goods. Tea, Coffee and Sugar are provided. Bring milk (2 litres) and biscuits.

If you cannot do your turn please swap with someone else on the list. There is no need to leave your seat before the end of the service to make tea and coffee. There is plenty of time for everyone to get to the hall area and the boiler is ready to use.

The Cornerstone is open 6 days a week for your refreshment and for Traidcraft supplies, cards, books etc.



## Project Africa

The total for our "Toiley Twinning" project stands at £158.69. Thank you for everyone who is supporting our appeal. Can we make £180 by the end of the year? I hope so. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019. Thank you again. Wyn Parkinson.

## Shoebox Appeal

Working with a new charity Link to Hope has been a very worthwhile experience this year. Thanks to those who saved boxes, gave donations, bought gifts and especially to the band of knitters. 89 boxes were packed up with the kind help of the Hobbies group and those who joined in. The customs forms and packing was done in one morning and evening with lots of help. The boxes were picked up on 9th November and will now be on the way to Eastern Europe. The DVD shown was very moving the boxes will help the poorest parts of Eastern Europe, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine.

Well done. Please keep bringing in your boxes for next year. Aileen

## 35<sup>th</sup> Hartlepool (St George's) Scout Group

The Beavers have been working on their Communications Badge. They looked at different methods of communication, including telephones and Morse code. During the next few weeks they will be making Christmas decorations.

The Cubs are currently undertaking a Healthy Eating Challenge. At their meeting, they sampled various fruits such as pomegranate seeds and blueberries, and they tried different fruit smoothies.

The Scouts have been learning survival skills and how to use knives safely. During the half term break, they went to Ravengill for a county event weekend with scouts from other groups. Despite being in tents in the snow, a good time was had by all. They are now studying drawing as part of their artist badge.



## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - JANUARY 2019

Join in a shared time of prayer followed by a soup lunch at 12 noon each day

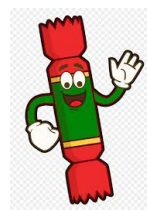
Mon 21	Oxford Road Baptist Church
Tues 22	St Thomas More's RC Church
Wed 23	Stranton Parish Church – to be held at St Matthew's Hall, Elwick Road
Thurs 24	St George's URC
Fri 25	Church of the Nazarene
<b>Sunday 27</b>	<b>United Service at 4.00pm at St George's URC</b>

These are open services and all are welcome to attend



## Advent and Christmas

The Advent Bible Study will run over four weeks starting on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. They will all be held in St Columba's Billingham starting at 7pm. They will be led by Mr Ian Smith as the minister is on sick leave. It is possible that the third session will be on a different day, due to a clash with the Christmas Dinner arranged by the Mission, which several people from the group are attending.



*Why is it getting harder to buy Advent Calendars?  
Because their days are numbered !*



## The Posada

The figures of Mary and Joseph will leave St George's on Advent Sunday morning, and return at the Christmas Eve service in preparation for the arrival of the Baby Jesus in time for the Christmas Morning Service.

This gives us all the opportunity to think about our personal Advent Journey and our preparations for the birth of Jesus, as we take a few minutes out of our hectic preparations for the Christmas season.

Thanks to those of you who are taking part in this journey with Mary and Joseph and to Aileen who has once again organised the travel arrangements



*Mary looks rather unhappy, but so would I!*



## ZIMBABWE

The last six months have involved preparations for the elections and the aftermath. The environment is now calmer but still fragile. Two Christian Aid partners were actively involved in the preparations for elections; Zimbabwe Peace Project through continued monitoring of politically motivated violence and engagement with the Electoral commission and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches through actively building cohesion and peace within communities to prevent violence as well as engagement with political parties and the electoral commission.

The economic situation remains dire due to shortages of cash, unemployment and reduced capacity of industry. This situation has affected the operations of Christian Aid partners who often must delay activities in order to access cash for activities in rural areas where electronic money is not widely accepted.

The rate of unemployment is widely disputed, with estimates from between 5% - 90% <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-42116932>, however the situation on the ground is the increase in the informal sector, where informal vending has become the livelihood for many women and men who cannot secure employment. High unemployment rates leave youths open to abuse by politicians during elections.

Overall, the implications of the elections are that in this post-election period, partners will need to engage with a new set of stakeholders at the community (councillors), district (Members of parliament), Provincial and National levels (Ministers) which may either derail or progress their advocacy and policy work.

### Partner Update - ZCC

Trained Local Peace and Gender Committees worked to prevent violence during the election period. For instance, in Gwanda at the Anglican Church premises, the committee brought together stakeholders from the Zimbabwean Electoral Commission (ZEC) and the major political parties to discuss issues of the voters' roll inspection and nomination court. This increased the information available to congregants who could clarify questions directly with ZEC.

The Local Peace and Gender Committee in Hwange engaged the Zimbabwean Republic Police District Officers, political parties and aspiring political candidates in discussing peace and non-violent ways of campaigning in face of the then upcoming elections. The meeting was held at the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe. The chairwoman of the committee, Lieutenant Mudzamba presided over the meeting. Not only was the meeting instrumental in clarifying questions from the public but the Electoral commission also became interested in the discussions and sought to work with the committee to share information on the electoral process.

## **St George's Annual Bazaar**

### **17th November 2018**

<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>Stall</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
£239.15	Cake Stall	£137.30
£ 32.00	Raffle	£ 61.00
£ 44.00	Tombola	£ 63.00
£ 94.70	White Elephant	£ 135.79
£ 23.10	Junior Church	£ 33.80
£ 95.95	Hobbies (Bottle Tombola)	£ 82.20
£ 73.00	Aileen's Lucky Dip	£ 71.00
£ 50.00	Christmas Goods Stall	£ 67.00
£227.00	Hamper Raffle	£300.00
£ 29.50	Sweet jar / Cake weight	£ 48.50
£ 13.51	Jewellery	£ 16.50
£ 92.00	Door Receipts	£ 95.80
£ 72.00	Electric goods stall	£ 42.50
£ 15.00	Donations	£ 40.00
£1100. 91	Total	£1194.39

### **Christmas Fayre. 17th November 2018**

We've held Christmas and Spring Fayres in St George's for many years. This year's Christmas Fayre was once again a great success and will help support the work of the church.

This year we increased the advertising and also asked local businesses for donations to help with our raffles etc. Many thanks to Victoria House Funeral Services for the fruit hampers and to Wilkinsons for the £10.00 gift voucher. Hopefully we will receive more donations next time

Thanks to all of the church members who helped organise the event, those who stood on the stalls, those who helped set up and those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen. Thank you for helping to make this event successful. These events are a major fundraising event for the church and without them we would find it even harder to balance the finances. Gillian

## The Fishburn Band/ Remembrance Concert 10 November 2018

"Superb", "wonderful", "uplifting" and "the best concert we have ever had in St George's". Just some of the comments made after the concert on the 10<sup>th</sup> November commemorating 100 years since the end of the first world war and subsequent conflicts since.



Kay De'Ath sang a song written by Teesside folk singer Vin Garbutt titled The Troubles of Erin accompanied by (me) Paul Rodgers on the guitar. Cliff Healey from Middlesbrough performed the moving song by Scotlands Eric Bogle about the forgotten horses of the first world war. Later he sang a song by Ken Ford which talked about the futility of wars.

The obvious stars of the evening were the wonderful Fishburn Brass Band ably conducted by Lewis Wilkinson. They performed with great skill and expertise and chose a programme that represented the theme of the evening appropriately.

All in all, it was an extremely successful and enjoyable evening with a good number of people in the audience. Around 60 people attended. Tea and coffee was served at half time and a successful raffle was held to raise extra funds.

Thanks to the many church members who helped to make the evening a great success.

Our next concert in St George's is on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December when the Ex Hartlepool Youth Choir will entertain us as they have done in previous years. The concert starts at 4.30.

Paul Rodgers

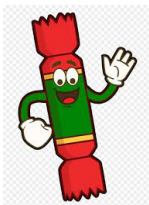


### Fundraising Activities / Committee

To support the ongoing work of the church, it has been decided to set up a fundraising committee. To help generate funds, 2 purple boxes have been positioned, one in the hall area and the other in the entrance area for suggestions to raise much needed funds.

Please pop your ideas, however wacky, into the boxes and we will co-opt members to help us organise events as required.

Gillian Rodgers



What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?  
The Christmas alphabet has no L

### The Latest from Traidcraft

A week or so ago I was part of a focus group up at Gateshead discussing the future of Traidcraft. They wanted to know what the ordinary Fairtrader thought about the future.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

We were told what the situation is at present and what the proposals are. The really good news is that Traidcraft is not going to disappear. As a responsible firm, they had not gone down the liquidation route as they have real responsibilities to their producers and other and didn't want to do anything they couldn't pay for.

Obviously this has all come at the worst time of year for sales. However, having thought long and hard, they have decided to give up their warehouse on the Team Valley and outsource their deliveries. This means there will no longer be the very personal service that we Fairtraders have come to expect and all orders will be placed through the internet. (This will be no difference for me, as I've always ordered like this.)

They will be reducing stock lines and concentrating mainly on food, most of it rebranded as all Traidcraft produce. You should not notice any real difference— the tea, for example will be the same— and most importantly— the producers will still be receiving fair rewards for their labours. This is the thing which drives us all to support fair trade.

Traidcraft are supporting their craft producers and introducing them to new markets and suppliers and things like the handmade cards will still be available.

Stocks are coming through again and I will be taking orders from the catalogues in church and in the shop. There should be no reason why we cannot continue the shop. However, we do need your support!

There has been some idea that Fairtrade will stop because Traidcraft has had difficulties. It hasn't and won't. It is too important and now too big for that to happen.

I look forward to your support in buying to help some of the poorer people on the planet. Traidcraft was founded by a small group who wanted to show their love for Christ in a practical way. Let's make sure this continues with us.

Chris Eddowes

### Some maths for you!

If you number the alphabet— for example A=1, B=2 etc right to the end where Z=26, have you ever tried to get to 100%?

#### HARD WORK

$$8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$$

#### KNOWLEDGE

$$11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$$

#### ATTITUDE

$$1+20+20+9+20+21+4+7+5 = 100\%$$

#### LOVE OF GOD

$$12+15+22+5+15+6+7+15+4 = 101\%$$

Therefore you can conclude with mathematical certainty that while hard work and knowledge will get you close and attitude will get you there, it is the love of God that will put you over the top.

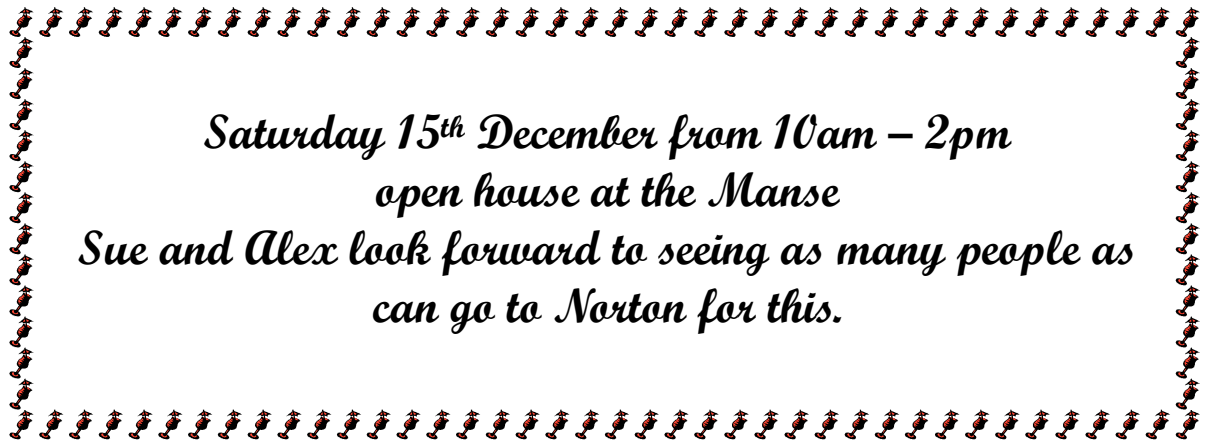
### Annual Reports

I always feel a bit like a party pooper as I write this section of the newsletter.

Christmas is not yet with us, and I am shouting about a report looking back over the last twelve months.

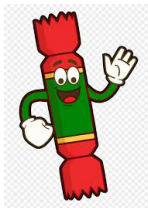
I'm sorry, but party pooper or not, I need annual reports from groups and organisations by January 31<sup>st</sup> please. This allows time for the preparation and distribution of the reports ahead of the Annual General Meeting.

Thank you Margaret

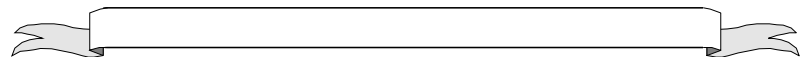


### Christmas Giving

The manger gifts this year will be for the Seamen's Mission and money gifts will be for the Butterwick Children's Hospice

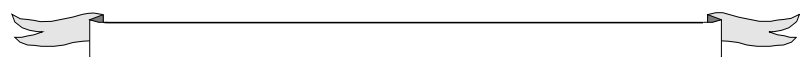


What did one angel say to another angel who  
wouldn't stop moaning?  
I wish you wouldn't keep harping on!



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL OUR READERS

FROM THE PRODUCTION STAFF  
OF ST. GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER



## News of People

It was lovely to see Lewis back in church recently. He will be returning to Wales when the new season starts.

We remember our minister Sue Fender who has been ill for several weeks now. She hopes to be fit enough to return to some duties soon.

Congratulations, (rather belatedly) to Frank and Aileen on the birth of their granddaughter. Although very small at birth she is thriving now.



### Flower Donors

December 2 Mrs M Mudd

December 9

December 16

December 23 Mr and Mrs A Woodhall

December 30 Mrs S Turnbull

The Christmas Poinsettia plants have been kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Malcolm Wallis.

January 6 Mr and Mrs P Humberston

January 13

January 20

January 27 Mrs S Harrison



*The Flower Ladies are arranging deliveries on each Sunday morning. If you would like to help on any particular day—just offer.*

### Stewards Rota

Date		Stewards	Keys
DECEMBER	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Alistair and Enid Bushnell.	Alistair Bushnell.
	9 <sup>TH</sup>		
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dick Fletcher, Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pam Branfoot, Paul Humberston	Brian Carter
	25 <sup>th</sup>	Kevin Hoad	Alan Woodhall
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Enid Bushnell, Aileen Whittaker	Frank Whittaker
JANUARY	6 <sup>th</sup>	- Alistair and Enid Bushnell -	Alistair Bushnell
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Hindmarch, Dick Fletcher	Bill White
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Pam Branfoot, Kevin Hoad	Brian Carter
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Gail and Ashley Hoad	Alan Woodhall
FEBRUARY	3 <sup>RD</sup>	- Paul Humberston, Aileen Whittaker -	Frank Whittaker

If you are unable to do your turn, please arrange your own substitute

## Worship in St George's December

2nd 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes - Communion Service  
 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Worship Team - **we are NOT at Grange Road that day**  
 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Nativity Service  
 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Worship Team  
 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm Carols by Candlelight – Brian Carter and Margaret Humberston  
 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Christmas Morning Worship – Rev Sue Fender  
 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes

## January 2019

6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Worship Team – Communion  
 13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev Sue Fender – United Service with Grange Road  
 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Chris Eddowes  
 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mrs Ian Smith – Parade Service

## February

3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Rev Sue Fender – Communion  
 We are now recording our services whenever possible, and thanks go to Paul Rodgers for doing this for us. If any of our housebound members and friends, or those who are unable to be present on a particular Sunday, would like to listen to the service, please let me know and I will arrange for the CD to be loaned to you. Margaret



### From the editor

Copy for the next issue to be with me by lunchtime **27th January** please (or earlier)

### Reach me by e-mail on:

chris.richard.eddowes @ntlworld.com

### Church Officers

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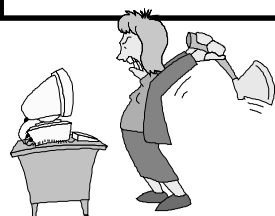
### St George's Regular Activities

Sun 10.30am Family Worship  
 Mon 2.00pm Monday Meeting at Grange Road  
 6.00pm Beavers  
 6.30pm Cub Scouts  
 7.00pm Scouts  
 3rd Tuesday in month Prayer meeting 11.00am  
 Thur 10am Hobbies Club



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### Newsletter Editor

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 65 Hutton Ave  
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 (269412)

### Communion Rota

**Jan** Mr A Woodhall Mrs B Woodhall  
**Feb** Mr P Rodgers Mrs G Rodgers

All elders to help with clearing up.

### Creche Rota

Dec	2	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	9	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	16	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	23	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	30	Mrs M Ord	Mrs G Cartman
Jan	6	Mrs S Harrison	Mrs E S Welsh
	13	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	20	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh
	27	Mrs M Ord	Mrs S Harrison
Feb	3	Mrs T Kirkpatrick	Mrs E S Welsh
	10	Mrs G Cartman	Mrs E S Welsh

Please arrange own substitute if unable to attend  
 E S Welsh